

## AMERICAN WIVES CANVASSERS

WOMAN'S WORK A FEATURE OF THE ENGLISH ELECTION.

Important Part Taken by the English Women in Politics—American Wives and Englishmen Quick to Adopt the Custom—Some Recent Workers.

LONDON, Jan. 18.—One of the interesting features of the recent political campaign in Great Britain was the part women played in it. Not only were there about 30,000 suffragists and suffragettes speaking and working for their cause, but there were thousands of other women who canvassed for votes from door to door so as to aid husband.



MRS. CHARLES HENRY (MISS LEWISOHN, NEW YORK)

brother, father or friend to gain a seat in Parliament.

London was a social desert owing to the absorption of women in politics. Shops, dressmakers' establishments and milliners' showrooms were empty. The English woman laid down her role of hostess and housewife and took up that of public speaker and canvasser. Instead of dispensing tea in her drawing room and chatting about the latest play she tramped from house to house to discuss with the butcher and the baker or Mrs. Butcher and Mrs. Baker the merits of free trade, land taxes, etc.

She supplied herself with figures and statistics. She was prepared to meet any questions, and if a voter appeared to be wavering in his views she would argue with him as skillfully and convincingly as the candidate himself. Canvassing in England has been reduced to a science. There is a certain constituency to be contested and perhaps three men are running, a Liberal, a Conservative and a Labor candidate. At the headquarters of each party there are election agents who take charge of the canvassers. They provide every voluntary worker for their party with books containing the names and addresses of all the residents in the neighborhood. Each canvasser has a certain number of these residents appointed to her to visit.

If she finds that some of them are of her own party she merely marks them as such and just chats with them about the probable outcome of the election, their own affairs, etc. If they are of one of the opposing parties she marks them according to their convictions and does her best to change their opinions, but if she finds a voter is indifferent or undecided she has her opportunity.

She marshals her statistics and presents

her arguments. Sometimes she accomplishes a great deal, sometimes she makes little impression. In any case she marks down that voter as possible, and from that time till the election takes place the possible one receives more attention than he ever had before. He receives calls all day and half the night. His home gets to be a hunting ground of the various political parties. As matter of fact he generally enjoys this very much.

It is in the rural districts that the woman canvasser is most useful because men workers of this kind are scarce there. The men may be anxious to help but have only evenings at their disposal, and canvassing in these lonely parts must be done in the daytime. The farmer must be seen when he is in his fields working, or better still, resting at noonday or tea time. The woman canvasser trudges through the field in search of him, and if she understands Hodge and his little way and can interest him in her arguments she is of value to the local agents.

Perhaps nothing shows the adaptability of the American woman better than the way she accepts this feature of English life. In her own country she takes a small and very rarely a personal interest in the political situation. She marries an Englishman who contests a constituency and she is as willing and able to help

him as are the English wives of candidates who have been born and bred in this atmosphere of political struggle.

In the recent canvass there were more American political workers than ever before. They laid aside all other interests and spent their time visiting electors or their wives, discussing political questions with them and pointing out the best way to vote, making addresses and appearing with their husbands on the platforms at political meetings, always deeply and intelligently interested, always charmingly dressed and always a great factor in the situation.

This year Waldorf Astor ran for Parliament as Conservative candidate for Plymouth. He did not have much feminine help, for Mrs. Astor was too inexperienced to be of much aid in canvassing and Mrs. Spender Clay (Miss Astor) was hard at work among the Kentish voters for her husband, Capt. Spender Clay, who was Conservative candidate for Tunbridge Wells. This was Mrs. Clay's

first experience of the kind. Though in the beginning she found it difficult, she quickly got into the spirit of it and seems to have made a favorable impression.

Lady Gilbert Parker (Miss Van Tine, New York) is as deeply interested in her husband's political work as she has always been in his literary career and she was of great assistance to him in his campaign. Sir Gilbert was Conservative candidate for Gravesend and Lady Parker, who is an accomplished horsewoman, drove all around his constituency calling upon electors and trying to interest them in imperial politics. Her gentle dignity of manner made a great impression upon the women, while her knowledge of the issues at stake won many listeners among the men.

Lady Willoughby De Eresby (Miss Brees, New York) is another American who assisted a Conservative husband. She canvassed very vigorously in Lincolnshire, where Sir Willoughby was running. As president of the Conservative

Women's Suffrage Association she has had some experience in public speaking and can make a very good election address. She has a quick, bright way of arguing with obstinate voters or urging women to influence their men folk in the right direction, which she ascribed to the preservation of the House of Lords and tariff reform. Lady De Eresby says she very much enjoys the work and does not in the least mind an occasional rebuff from Radical or Socialist householders.

On the Liberal side there were even more American women canvassers. There was first and foremost the popular Mrs. Lulu Harcourt (Miss Burns, New York), whose husband was candidate for the Rosendale division of Lancashire. Mrs. Harcourt's energy and perseverance are unflagging, and this season though she is in poor health she worked hard to help her husband defeat the Conservative candidate.

She pressed numerous pretty feminine

friends into service and Rosendale was dazzled every day by motor cars dashing about filled with fashionably dressed women who were anxious to discuss the Government policy, old age pensions, the budget and the taxes with the housewife or her husband if only they could get a hearing.

Sir Francis Channing, who was Liberal candidate for Wellsborough, was born in America, but is a naturalized Englishman. He has an American wife, who was formerly Elizabeth Bryant Bacon of Boston. Sir Francis has represented his constituency seven years and is very popular, so Lady Channing merely called on his adherents and took an interest in their welfare. She rarely talked politics with them. Sir Francis is a believer in woman suffrage, but Lady Channing, while not an active anti-suffragist, is quite unconvinced of woman's capacity to wield the vote.

Lady Evans, who was Miss Blanche Rule of Cincinnati, was an invaluable aid to her husband, Sir Samuel Evans, who has represented Glamorganshire and was running again. He is in the unpleasant position of being the man who talked out the first woman suffrage bill under the present Government, so all Lady Evans's tact and discretion were needed to counteract suffragette canvassing in her district. Lady Evans was well fitted

for the task. She has imperturbable good nature, a sense of humor and a Western breeziness which makes her meet the stolid "I don't hold with that" of the rustic British voter with a jolly laugh which disarms his obstinacy.

Mrs. A. H. Scott is another Anglo-American canvasser and political worker. As Miss Katherine Dunoon of Kentucky she knew only as much about politics as the average Southern woman, but life in England with a husband in Parliament has developed a dormant faculty and the residents of Ashton under Lyne are well acquainted with Mrs. Scott's canvassing methods and always enjoy her persuasive visits to their cottages.

Mrs. R. C. Lehmann (Miss Alice Marie Davis, New York) was very busy with her political work in her husband's constituency, the Harborough division of Leicestershire. She never made public speeches, but she canvassed diligently and she is an earnest believer in the efficacy of women as political helpers.

Mrs. C. S. Henry (Miss Lewisohn, New York), whose husband was Liberal candidate for the Wellington division of Shropshire, has not hitherto done very much canvassing, but this campaign she joined her husband and worked as hard as any one else to shake the Conservative voter in his conviction, to strengthen the Liberal in his mind and to win over the doubtful voters.

Mrs. John M. Robertson (Miss Mosher, Boston), is another of the Americans who until this campaign refrained from canvassing for votes for their husbands, but being an ardent believer in the land taxes and free trade, as well as in the efficiency of the Liberal Government, she buckled on her political armor and set to work to do her best to have at least one Liberal candidate returned.

At Tyneside, her husband's constituency, Mrs. Robertson is better known as a gifted violinist than as a public speaker, but in this canvass she addressed gatherings of women in addition to going from house to house to talk free trade with the men. She had American and French prices of necessities at her finger tips and quoted the cost of living in Paris, New York and other protection cities as compared with London. She has a sense of humor which makes her receive occasional rebuffs good naturedly, so when an ex-sailor opened his house door to her one day, listened to her first remarks indifferently and then leisurely closed the door in the midst of one of her sentences she only laughed and went to the next house quite unflustered.

Mrs. Joel Seaverns was one of the most successful of the American women in this political campaign. She is a systematic and intelligent canvasser and did very good work in her husband's constituency. Mr. Seaverns was born in the United States, but became an English citizen many years ago, and his wife, who was a Miss Brown of Portland, Me., has lived in England for a very long time but has not lost her Americanism. She is a clever political debater and spare neither time nor trouble in trying to convince the electors of their duty.

he believes, are due to some extent to the observance of that phase of card etiquette which demands new cards at every sitting. Women at their bridge clubs or at their formal private bridge parties are greater sticklers on this point than formerly.

At up to date bridge parties two packs of new cards for every table is the rule and there are expert players of both sexes who will not use the same pack of cards twice. Naturally this means that instead of buying one pack of cards at a time the average card player buys a dozen packs, and at that he demands a better quality than once satisfied the general public.

When asked if the tremendous increase in the number of playing cards sold did not indicate a relative increase in gambling, especially among women, the manufacturer replied with emphasis:

"Not at all. I am asked over and over again that question by persons who know that I am acquainted with a host of persons socially who play cards as well as with hosts more in a business way, and my invariable answer is that only about 10 per cent. of card players gamble; that is, play for money."

"Playing for prizes is more general than formerly, but that hardly comes under the head of gambling. The very fact that cards are used openly in the home by every member of the family helps to keep down instead of to increase gambling, in my opinion."

As an offset to this opinion a New York woman who plays bridge every time she has a chance and says she never gets enough of it, finds that about 30 per cent. of her women friends play for money whenever they have the opportunity and that the tendency to play for money is increasing all the time among New York women.

It is the manufacturers of score pads and tally cards, though, who relatively have benefited most from the increased popularity of card games. Enormous quantities of these articles are now

needed to satisfy the demand, and of late better qualities and designs are called for. One manufacturer turns out more than one hundred designs in fine bridge tally cards alone.

When it became certain that the game of bridge was established on a more or less permanent foundation, that it was not the passing fancy of a season, men almost new at the business began adding score cards as a side line and in every case, as it turned out, at a substantial profit to themselves. One manufacturer, who six years ago hadn't dipped into the business at all, started to turn out lithographed instead of printed bridge score pads, which he would sell at the same price, and instead of offering half a dozen designs he offered forty designs. The new pads, which provide for every intricacy of the game, can be had in almost any color and quality of paper, in any size and at a wide range of prices. Five tons of paper is consumed in one edition, or 60,000, of these pads.

The stock on hand of this manufacturer is usually from 30,000 to 35,000 pads, and this represents only a fraction of the total number of score pads consumed by the public every year. The most interesting point about his business, he says, is that ten years ago he would not have dared to put large quantities of these goods on the market, the demand then for score pads and tally cards being less than one-third what it is now.

"In this age of specializing producers who want to make money must put out something original. A score may be kept perfectly well on the margin of a newspaper, but most women like something artistic to keep score on."

"There are women, plenty of them, who won't use anything so ordinary as a score pad, especially on state occasions. They must have a beautifully decorated tally card."

"As for myself, I specialize on the most artistic pad possible to produce at a popular price and I make money at it. Others in the business specialize on a quite different style of pad and there is no wolf around their door either."

"There are manufacturers of tally cards which sell at top prices, of tally cards which sell at bottom prices, and both classes make a handsome profit on their

goods because the demand for such things is now enormous."

"A maker of the better grade of tally cards said that his own experience led him to believe that five times more score cards and pads are now sold than were sold ten years ago and twice as many as were sold five years ago."

"The money spent every year in New York for score cards and chips alone, leaving out playing cards, amounts far up into the thousands," he declared, "and the orders for these from other parts of the country, including suburban districts, have proportionately increased faster than orders from New York and nearby large cities."

There are decorations appropriate for certain holidays like Thanksgiving, Halloween, Christmas and Independence Day. Large quantities of tally cards with a plain outside cover are sold to givers of private bridge parties, who have them decorated by hand with original designs, sometimes matching the foliage of the guests, who keep them as souvenirs.

The game of 500, comparatively a new-comer, has also helped to make money for the score card manufacturers, most of whom make several varieties of score cards for this game. Compared with bridge score cards, though, these are as one to fifty.

Whether it is from motives of pure humanity or explicable on more cynical grounds, there are two or three classes of men who cannot be persuaded to take pay for minor things they do to relieve suffering. For instance, a common mishap is to get a cinder or speck of dust in the eye. One man to whom this has happened many times in New York and elsewhere has found it impossible to pay druggists or doctors who have removed the irritating object.

These men have taken all kinds of pains and often a quarter of an hour or so of time to get the dust or cinder out, and then have followed up by using some liquid to reduce the inflammation, but have never accepted a cent for the work. For instance, a common mishap is to get a cinder or speck of dust in the eye. One man to whom this has happened many times in New York and elsewhere has found it impossible to pay druggists or doctors who have removed the irritating object.

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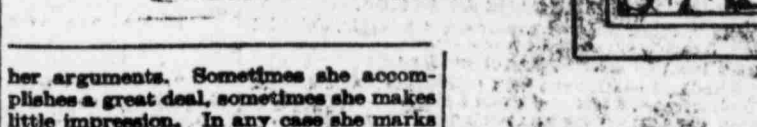
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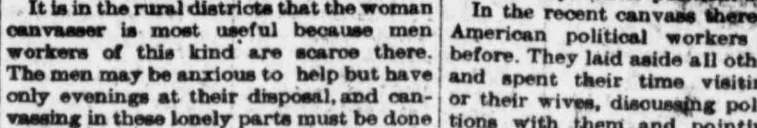
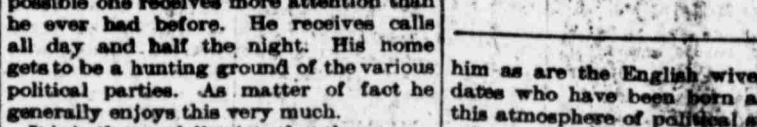
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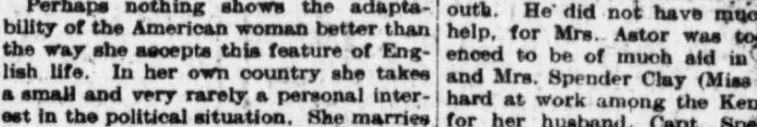
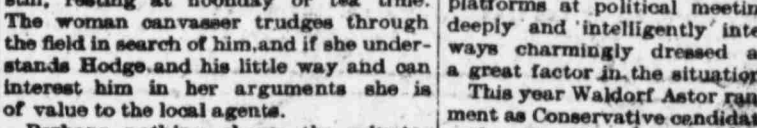
MRS. JOHN M. ROBERTSON (MISS MOSHER, BOSTON)



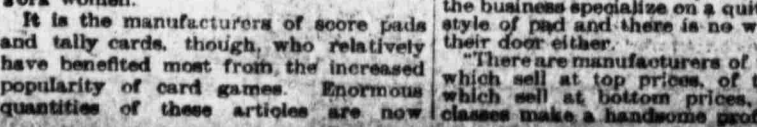
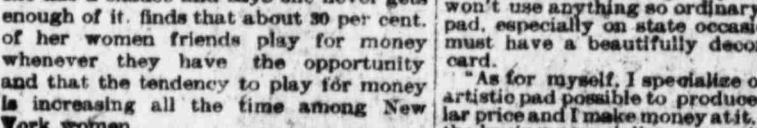
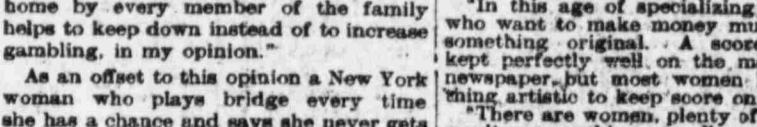
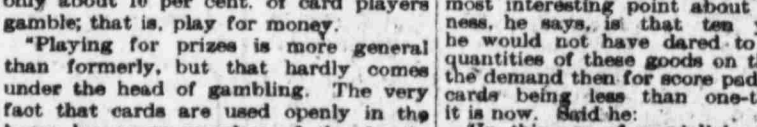
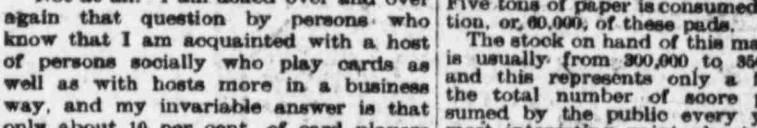
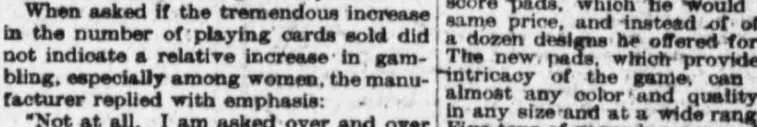
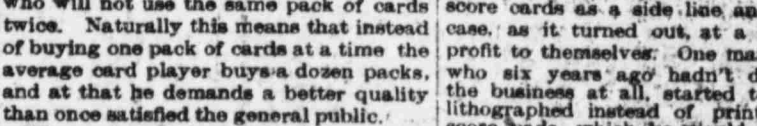
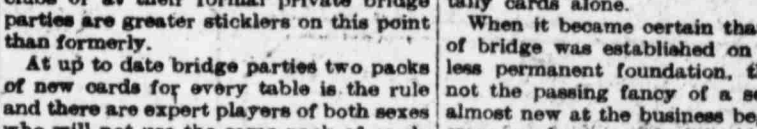
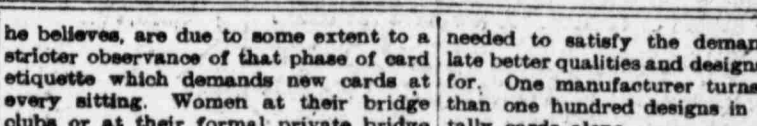
MRS. JOEL SEAVERN'S (MISS HELEN BROWN, PORTLAND)



MRS. LULU HARCOURT (MISS BURNS, NEW YORK)



LADY WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY (MISS BREESE, NEW YORK)



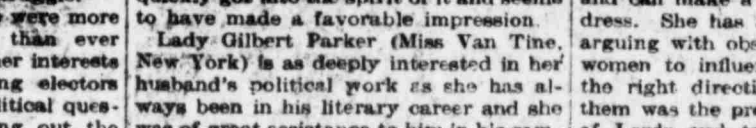
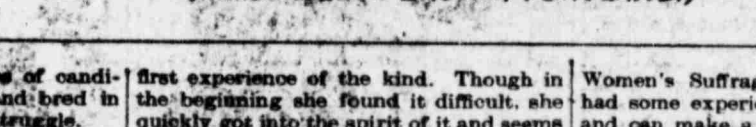
MRS. LULU HARCOURT (MISS BURNS, NEW YORK)



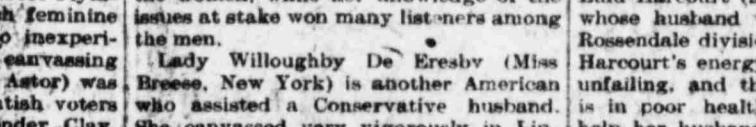
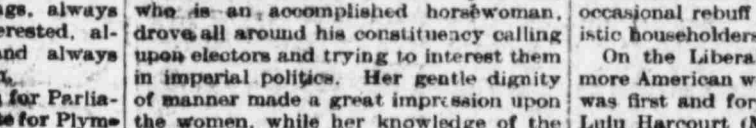
LADY WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY (MISS BREESE, NEW YORK)



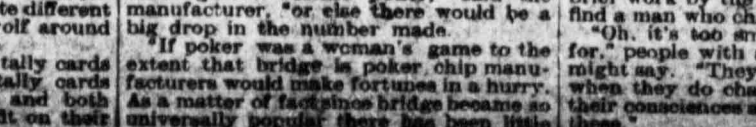
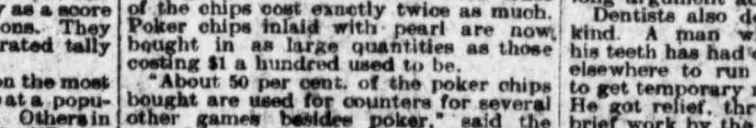
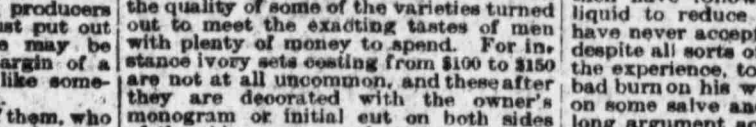
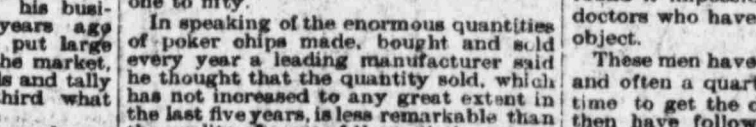
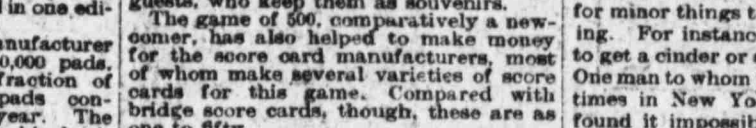
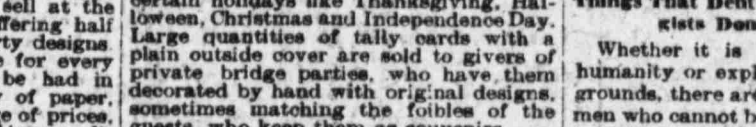
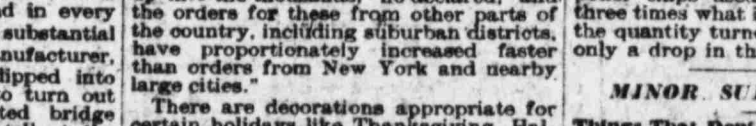
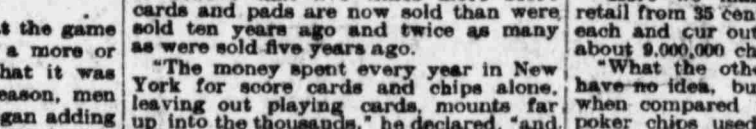
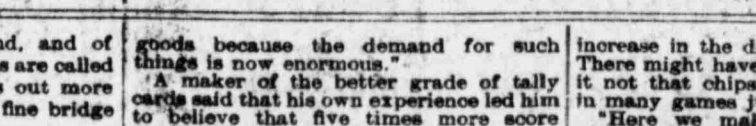
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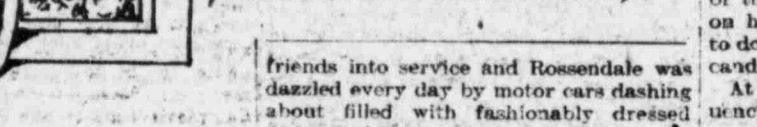
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